

Remarks

This Amendment responds to the final Office action ("Action") mailed January 24, 2007.

In the Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-15 and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the language of any base and intervening claims. [See, Action, at page 11, paragraph 7.] While the statement of paragraph 7 of the Action also indicates that the claims would be allowable "if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 101," Applicants assume this is a typographical error, given that the previous rejections under § 101 were withdrawn earlier in the Action. [See, Action, at page 2, paragraph 1.]

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-11 and 16. The Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections. In the interest of expediting allowance of the application, however, the Applicants have done the following:

- (1) The Applicants have canceled claims 1-11 and claim 16.
- (2) The Applicants have rewritten claim 12 to incorporate language from claims 10 and 11.
- (3) The Applicants have also rewritten claim 13 to incorporate language from claims 10 and 11.
- (4) The Applicants have rewritten claim 17 to incorporate language from claim 16.
- (5) The Applicants have amended claim 18 to depend from claim 17.
- (6) The Applicants have added dependent claims 21, 22, 23, and 24 to depend from now-independent claims 12, 13, 17, and 18, respectively. These new claims add language previously found in claims 3 and 4. No new matter is added.

Claims 12-15 and 17-24 are allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

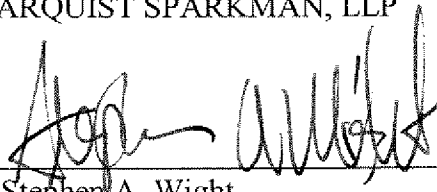
Conclusion

A Notice of Allowance is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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